# **Discussion of Watershed Goals**

## What are your water quality goals?

- · What is a healthy watershed?
- Can you name specific attributes?
- Are there ways to measure them?
- · How can we measure them?



#### ited States Code, Title 33

#### ec. 1251. Congressional declaration of goals and policy

(a) Restoration and maintenance of chemical, physical and biological integrity of Nation's waters; national goals for achievement of objective

The objective of this chapter is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters. In order to achieve this objective it is hereby declared that, consistent with the provisions of this chapter -

- hereby declared that, consistent with the provisions of this chapter 
  o (1) it is the national goal that the discharge of pollutants into the navigable waters be eliminated by 1985;

  (2) it is the national goal that wherever attainable, an interin goal of water quality which provides for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife and provides for recreation in and on the water be achieved by 149, 1983;

  (3) it is the national policy that the discharge of toxic pollutants in toxic amounts be prohibited;

  (4) it is the national policy that Federal financial assistance be provided to construct publicly owned waste treatment works;

  (5) it is the national policy that areawide waste treatment works;

  (6) it is the national policy that a rangular waste treatment anagement planning processes be developed and implemented to assure adequate control of sources of pollutants in each State;

  (6) it is the national policy that a major research and demonstration effort he made to develop technology necessary to eliminate the discharge of pollutants into the navigable waters, such as the program of the country of the contiguous zone, and the oceans, and

  (7) it is the national policy that programs for the country of none of the country of

## Clean Water Act

## CWA: Part I

- Focus on <u>point source (PS) discharges</u> to surface waters, through NPDES permitting
- Limits <u>apply regardless</u> of condition <u>of receiving</u> <u>water</u>, or relative contribution from the source
- Pollutant levels in discharges determined by technical/economic feasibility
- <u>Same limits</u> placed on all PS <u>within each</u> industrial grouping (50 categories/plus subcategories)
  - Generally, <u>municipal</u> sewage plants must achieve discharge equal to "<u>secondary treatment</u>"

## NPDES permitting under Sec. 402

- Illegal for point source (pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, vessel, rolling stock, or other manmade conveyance) to discharge pollutants to surface waters without a permit
- Permit is a license granting permission to discharge
  - Not a right: permit is revocable "for cause" (e.g., non-compliance)

## NPDES Program: Coverage

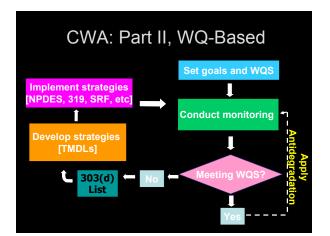
- Industrial and municipal wastewater
- Industrial, urban, and construction-related <u>storm water</u> <u>runoff</u>
- Concentrated animal <u>feeding</u> <u>operations</u> (CAFOs)
- Active, inactive, and some abandoned <u>mines</u>
- Discharges from RCRA remedial action activity meeting point source definition



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## Effluent (discharge) limits

- Technology-based" end-of-pipe
  (concentration/mass)
  BAT, NSPS, PSES, secondary treatment, etc.
  Spelled out in EPA regulation packages (effluent guidelines)
  Use best professional judgment (BPJ) if no EPA regulations
- Water quality-based (linked to TMDLs)
   Only where tech-based controls are insufficient to meet WQS
   Back-calculated from numeric WQC: pollutant concentrations in discharge
   Derived from numeric whole effluent toxicity testing



## Water Quality Standards

- State's yardstick to measure health of waters
- Three key elements of WQSs:
  - Designated uses
  - Water quality criteria
  - Antidegradation provisions



## **WQS: Process**

- · WQS established by states and tribes
- EPA must review/approve prior to becoming effective
- If EPA disapproves a state or tribe WQS and state or tribe doesn't revise it, EPA promulgates a WQS
- Public review and comment at state, tribal, and federal levels (if EPA promulgates)
- · States must review their WQS every three years and submit them to EPA

### Indian Tribes and WQS/CWA

- Section 518 of the CWA: Under specific circumstances EPA is to "treat tribes as states" with regard to CWA programs, including:

  - Water quality standards
    Water quality monitoring and reporting
  - TMDLs
  - NPDES
  - Various CWA grant prograi





## **WQS: Key Definitions**

- Designated use Expression in WQS of a use of a specific waterbody that should be attained, regardless of current use
- Existing use Any use that has been attained or has occurred in a waterbody since November 1975
- Downgrading Changing a designated use from a "higher" (more sensitive) use to a "lower" one
- Upgrading Changing the designated use from a "lower" to a "higher" one

## WQS: Designating Waterbodies

#### The General Rules

- Must designate all "existing" uses
- Fishable/swimmable required, with rare exceptions
- "Waste transport" not OK
- Multiple uses OK; "most sensitive use reigns"
- Can consider economic factors
- Must not preclude attainment of downstream WQS

## **Example Use Designation**



- Aquatic life support warmwater & coldwater aquatic habitat
- Primary contact recreation swimming
- Secondary contact recreation boating and fishing
- Fish consumption eating fish
- Drinking water domestic water supply





## Water Quality Criteria

- Consistent <u>scientifically</u> with protecting all designated uses (DUs)
- · Basic types of criteria
  - Narrative/numeric
  - Water column/sediment/ fish tissue
- Figure 6: Monitoring Types and Publishers or Conditions That They Measure

  Biological
  Assessment
  Physical
  Assessment
  Physical
  Assessment
  Physical
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   Temperative
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- Categories of criteria
  - Aquatic life
  - Pollutant-specific/aquatic community indices
  - Human health (drinking/fish consumption)
  - Wildlife (semiaquatic/food chain effects)

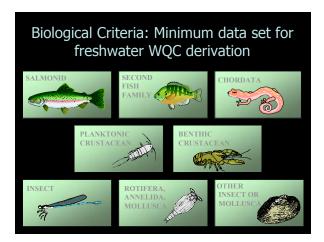
### WQS: Numeric Criteria

- Parameter-specific: DO, temp., turbidity, N, P, Cu, dioxin, etc.
  - –Level/concentration: 1 mg/L, 5 mg/kg
  - -Duration:
    - Acute: instantaneous, 1-hour, 1-day
    - Chronic: 4-day, 7-day, 30-day
  - -Recurrence interval: 1 year, 3 years

## WQC: Warmwater Aquatic Life

Parameter	Value	Units
Dissolved Oxygen	>4.0	milligrams/liter
рН	6-9	Standard Units
Un-ionized Amonia-N	0.05	mg/l
Fecal Coliform	400	Colonies/100ml
Temp	30	Degrees C

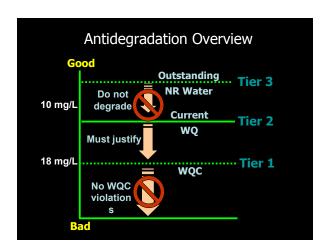

Nutrient	Criteria
Lakes and Reservoirs	
Total phosphorus	0.008-0.037 mg/l
Total nitrogen	0.100-0.780 mg/l, with one Ecoregion at 1.27 mg/l
Chlorophyll a	1.90-12.35 ug/l
Rivers and Streams	
Total phosphorus	0.010-0.067 mg/l, with one Ecoregion at 0.128 mg/l
Total nitrogen	0.120-0.900 mg/l, with one Ecoregion at 2.18 mg/l
Chlorophyll a	1.08-3.75 ug/l
Turbidity	1.30-7.83 FTU/NTU, with one Ecoregion at 17.50



## WQS: Narrative Criteria • Waters must be "free from" - Putrescent or otherwise objectionable bottom deposits - Oil, scum, and floating debris in amounts that are unsightly - Nuisance levels of odor, color, or other conditions - Undesirable or nuisance aquatic life - Substances in amounts toxic to humans or aquatic life Usually apply to all waters, regardless of use designation

## WQS: Antidegradation

- Purpose: <u>Prevent deterioration</u> of existing levels of <u>good water</u> quality
- <u>Two basic rules</u> apply to all high quality waters
- More stringent rules apply to specially-designated waters



## Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

- Amount of a specific pollutant that a waterbody can receive, assimilate, and still meet water quality standards
- States and tribes are required to develop TMDLs for waters on their 303(d) lists
- TMDLs are approved or disapproved by EPA; if disapproved, EPA develops the TMDL



### **TMDL** Definition

### TMDL = $\Sigma$ WLA<sub>i</sub> + $\Sigma$ LA<sub>i</sub> + MOS

 $\Sigma WLA_{i}\!\!: \mbox{ Sum of waste load allocations (point sources)}$ 

 $\Sigma LA_i$ : Sum of load allocations (nonpoint sources)

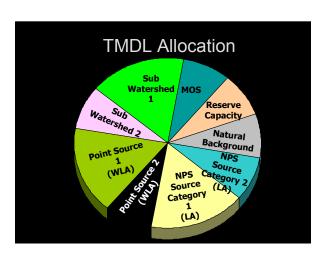
MOS: Margin of Safety

- Extra measure of protection due to uncertainty
- Can be explicit (e.g., 10%) or implicit (safety factors and assumptions in modeling, etc.)

### **TMDL: Allocations**

- Each point source with individual NPDES permit receives a wasteload allocation (WLA)
- Point sources covered under general permits can also get a wasteload allocation (WLA)
- Individual sources, categories, subcategories of nonpoint sources are represented by a load allocation (LA)

No EPA rules on how to allocate



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## Prioritizing watersheds & issues • Prioritization can be: – by geographic area (watersh

- by issue clusters (bundles)sediment from logging
  - stream buffer encroachment
- Implementation guided by:
  - need (level of degradation)
  - ability (available resources)
  - desire (willing local partners)



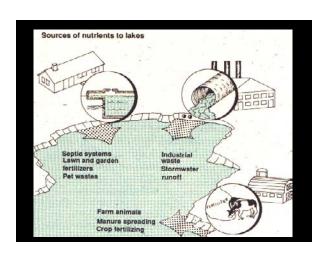
## Tribal NPS and Watershed Issues

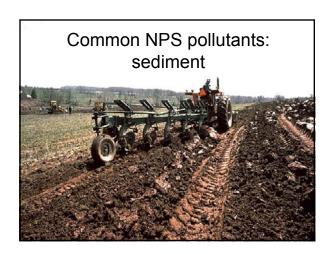


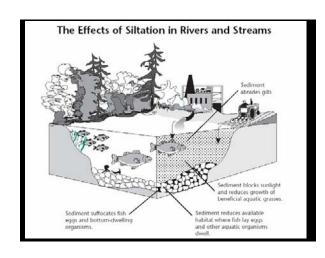
**Identifying Problems and Priorities** 

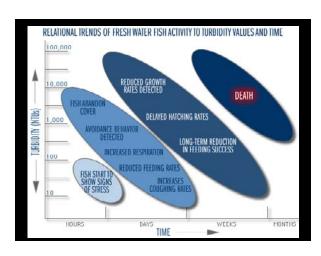
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## **Cropland impacts**

- Bare soil exposed and eroding into streams
- Compacted soil increases runoff rates
- Organic matter loss further decreases infiltration
- Irrigation can deplete surface & groundwater
- · Common pollutants:
  - Sediment
  - Nutrients
  - Pesticides
  - Herbicides





## Livestock production impacts

- · Rapid runoff where animals are confined
- Animal waste loads are increased
- · Carcass disposal can add to impacts
- Loss of vegetation along streams (pasture/range)
- · Common pollutants:
  - Nutrients
  - Sediment
  - Bacteria
  - Other animal pathogens



## Agricultural impacts overall

- 59% of assessed rivers and streams in the U.S. are impaired from agricultural activities.
- The primary pollutants are nutrients, sediment, animal wastes, salts, and pesticides.
- Ag production like urbanization can cause severe impacts to stream channels, leading to vegetation loss, bank erosion, and massive sedimentation of receiving waters.



## Timber harvest impacts

- Sediment runoff from haul roads and skid trails
- · Loss of forest duff & topsoil
- Soil compaction, reduced infiltration
- Loss of streamside vegetation
  - Reduced woody debris inputs
  - Reduced shading
  - Increased temperature



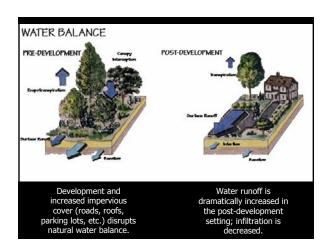
## Urban development impacts

- Pavement, roofs, sidewalks, and other hard surfaces dramatically increase runoff and decrease soil infiltration
- Runoff from urban areas contains:
  - Oil and grease (from roads & parking lots)
  - Pesticides, fertilizers, nutrients (from lawns/gardens)
  - Sediment (mostly from construction sites)
  - Heat (from hard surfaces)
  - Bacteria (from pet wastes, septic systems)
  - Trash (from roadways, parking lots,



## Urban pollutants & their sources

Pollutant Category	Probable Sources
Nutrients	<ul> <li>Atmospheric deposition and washout</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Septic system effluent through groundwater or</li> </ul>
	system overflows
	Lawn fertilization
Pathogens	<ul> <li>Urban wildlife and domestic pets</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Wastewater discharges</li> </ul>
Sediment	<ul> <li>Channel erosion from increased storm water runoff</li> </ul>
	due to impervious surfaces
	<ul> <li>Exposed soils at construction sites</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Urban runoff (e.g. tire wear from city streets)</li> </ul>
Industrial Chemicals and	<ul> <li>Intermittent pulse exposures, often weather-related</li> </ul>
Pesticides	<ul> <li>Runoff and groundwater contamination from land-</li> </ul>
	based sources, including waste disposal sites



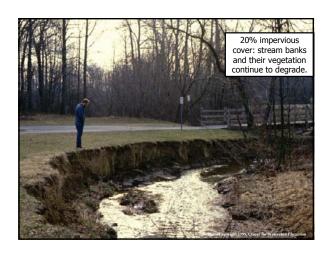


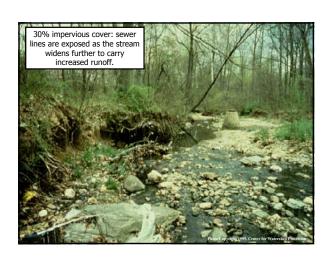


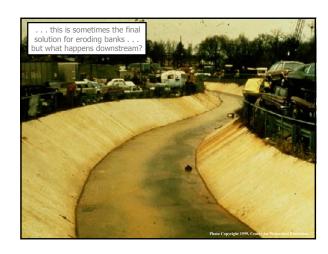












## Other impacts from the land

- · Septic systems
  - Bacteria, nutrients
- · Old waste sites
  - Can leach contaminants
- Illegal dumping
  - Used motor oil, etc.
- · Lawn & garden products
  - Fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides



### Soils and watersheds

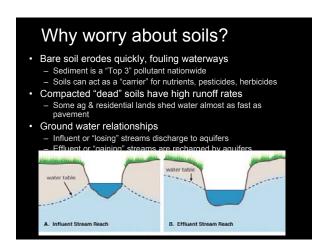
- Soils are a key factor governing watershed formation
  - Erosion potentialRunoff rates

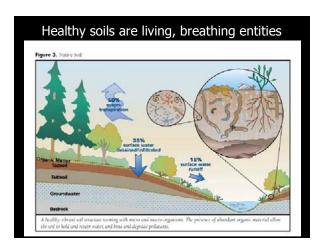
  - Vegetation types and densities
- Permeability

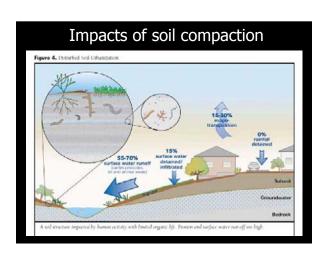
  - Sands and gravels: High infiltration rates
     Silt loam, sandy clay loam: Moderate infiltration rates
     Clays: Low infiltration rate; high runoff
- Soils also affect human aspects of watershed and land use factors:
  - Agriculture

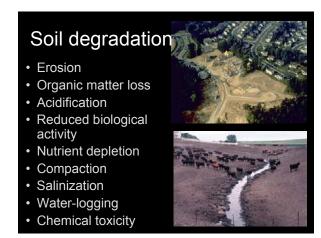
  - DevelopmentSeptic systems

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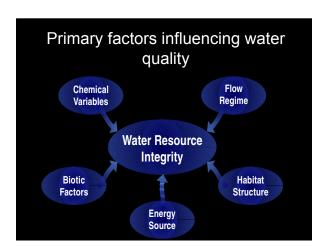


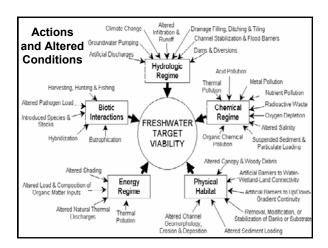


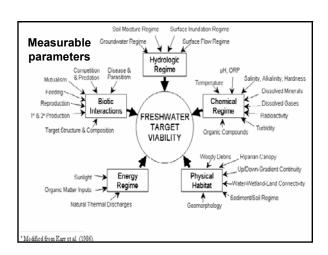


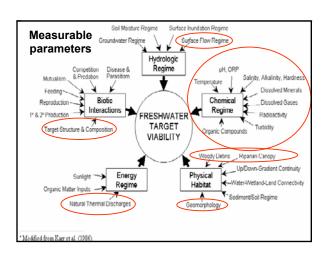


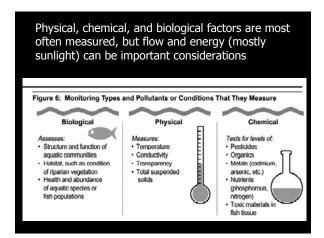
## Measuring watershed health Measurements can be taken: In the stream, river, lake, or wetland Along the bank area Within the uplands regions Agricultural areas Logging and mining sites Towns and cities



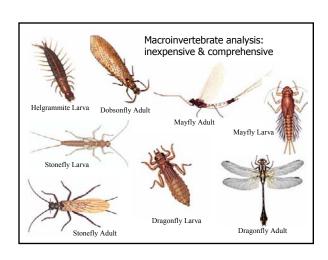


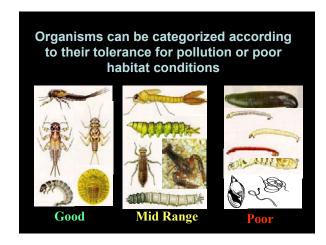


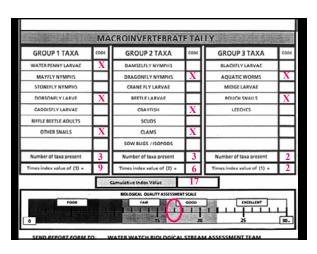


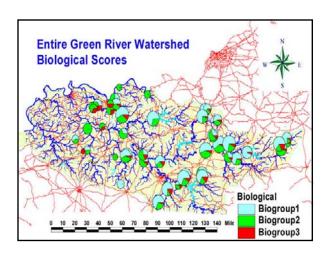


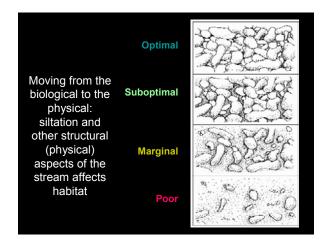




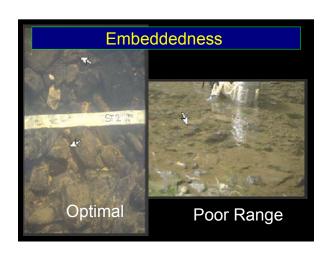




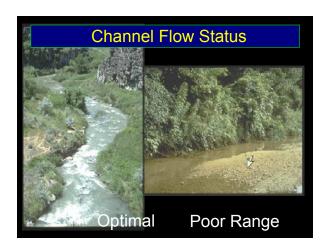


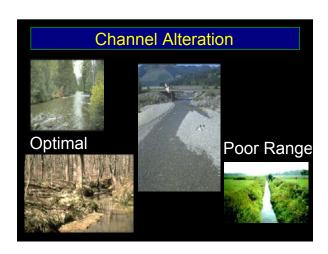






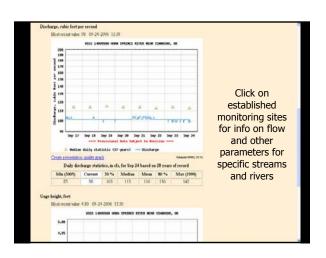


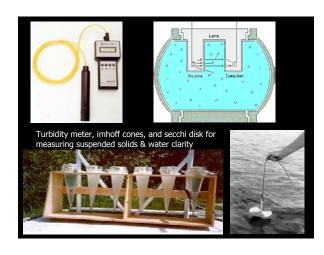


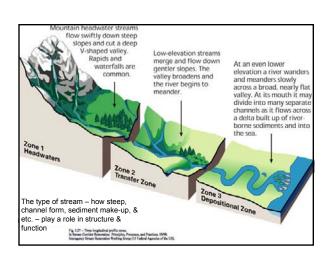


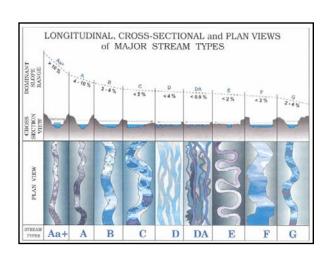
STE	REAM NAME		LOCATION								
ST	ATION # 9	UVERMILE	STREAM CLASS								
LA	r ı	0N9	RIVER BASIN								
STO	ORET#		AGENCY								
17/7	ESTIGATORS										
FO	RM COMPLETED BY		DATE AM 2M REASON FOR SURVEY								
	Habitat		Condition	Category							
	Parameter	Optimal	Suboptimal	Marginal	Poor						
	1. Epifounal Substrate/ Available Cover	Greater than 50% of substants favorable for epidematic coloranses and fish cover: max of snaps, contempts longs, cobbine or other stable shabitat and at stage to allow fall coloransies that are gag tern fish and gag terminent, longs mage that are gag new fall and gag terminent.	20-50% mix of stable habitat, well-outed for full exhaustance potential; adequate habitat for manneaucous or populations; persence of adultonal stoots are in the form of newfall, but not yet prepared for colorante many rate at high end of scale).  15 14 13 12 11	10-30% mix of stable habdati, habdati savalability less than desurable substante frequently destable or removed.	Lets than 10% stable habetat, lack of habetat is abetator, subsense unotable or lacking.						
a K	SCORE										
Bringmes of D	2. Pool Substrate Characterization	Mixture of substrate materials, with gravel and firm sand prevalent; root mats and submerged vegetation common.	Mixture of soft sand, mud, or clay, mud may be dominant; some root mats and submerged vegetation present.	All mod or clay or sand bottom; little or no root mat; no submerged vegetation.	Hard-pan clay or bedrock no soot mat or vegetation						
ŝ.	SCORE	26 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 6						
rs to be twal usted	3. Pool Variability	Even mix of large- shallow, large-deep, small shallow, small deep pools present.	Majority of pools large- deep, very few shallow.	Shallow pools much more prevalent than deep pools.	Majority of pools small- shallow or pools absent.						
Ιĕ	SCORE	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0						









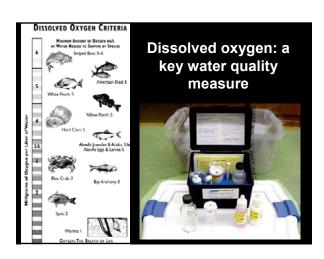


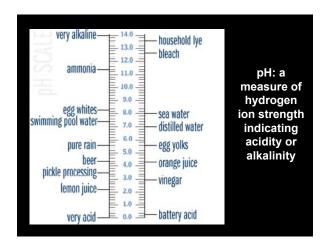
## Chemical and other lab-based tests:

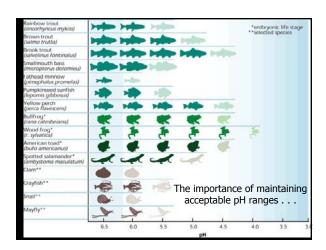
More costly, lots of possible pollutants to look for



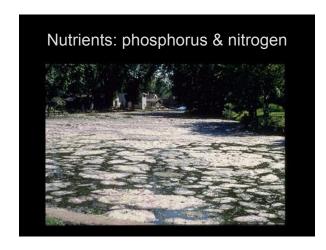
# Floating oil, grease, and gasoline can be checked for easily . . . (Cuyahoga River fire aftermath: July, 1969)

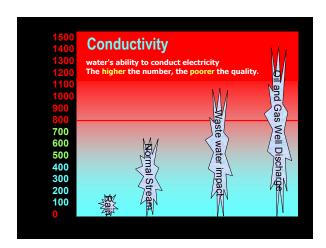






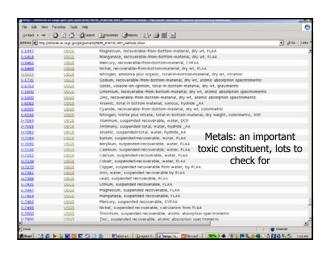




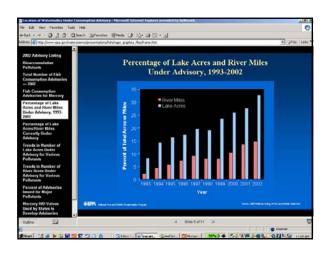


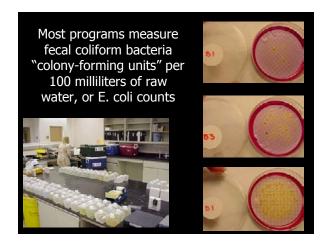


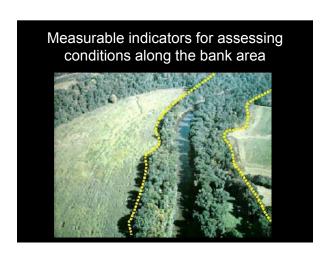
Species	Max. Weekly Average Temp. for Growth (Juveniles)	Max. Temp. for Survival of Short Exposure (Juveniles)	Max. Weekly Average Temp. for Spawning <sup>a</sup>	Max. Temp. for Embryo Spawningb
átlantío salmon	69%	73%	41%	5245
3luegili	90%	95°F	7775	9375
Brook trout	861	750	489	559
Common serg			70°F	91°F
Channel catfish	90**	95*7	91*7	84427
Largemouth bees	90°F	9395	70%	61455
Rainbow trout	861	759	489	559
Smallmouth base	84.57		8375	73%
Sockeye salmon	6417	17¢F	5047	5547



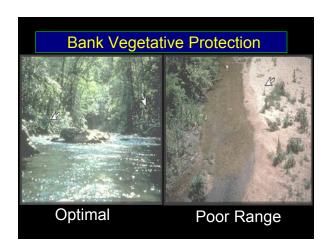








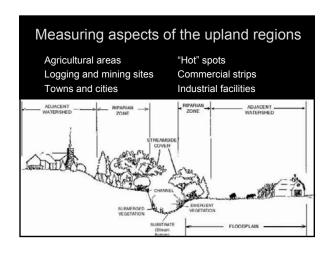


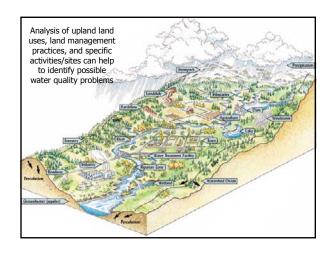




8. Bank Stability (score each bank)	dk Stability each bank) each bank) each bank) each or munimari, inte- potential for future problems. <5% of bank affected.		infrequent, small areas of erosion mostly healed			Moderately unstable; 30- 60% of bank in reach has areas of erosion; high crosson potential during floods.			Unstable; many eroded areas; "raw" areas frequent along straight sections and bends: obvious bank sloughing: 60-100% of bank has erosional scars.			
SCORE (LB)	Left Bank	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
SCORE(RB)	Right Bank	10	9	R	7	6	- 5	4	3	2	- 1	0
9. Vegetative Protection (score each bank)  Note: determine left or right side by facing downstream.	streambank surfaces and immediate ripurian zone covered by mative vegetation, including trees, understory shrubs, or nonwoody macrophytes; vegetative disruption through grazing or monung minimal or not		surfaces of plants represent evident b fall plant to any go than one-potential	surfaces covered by native vegetation, but one class of plants is not well- represented, disruption evident but not affecting full plant growth potential to any great extent; more		50-70% of the streambank surfaces covered by vegetation, disrupcion obvious, patches of bare soil or closely cropped vegetation, exemmen; less than one half of the potential plant enable height remaining.			Less than 50% of the streambank surfaces covered by vegetation, distruption of streambank vegetation is very high; vegetation has been removed to 5 centimeters or less in average stubble height.			
SCORE(LB)	Left Bank	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
SCORE (RB)	Right Bank	10	ø	2	7	6	5	- 4	3	2	1	0
10. Riparian Vegetative Zone Width (score each bank riparian zone)	Width of riparism zone >18 meters; human activities (i.e., parking lots, roadbeds, clear-cuts, lawns, or crops) have not impacted zone.			Width of nparian zone 12- 18 meters; human activities have impacted zone only minimally.		Width of riparian zone 6- 12 meters; human activities have impacted zone a great deal.			Width of riparian zone <6 meters: little or no riparian vegetation due to human activities.			
SCORE(LB)	Left Bank	10	p	2	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
SCORE (RB)	Right Bank	10	9	8	7	6	- 5	4	3	2	1	0









## Summary: types of data needed for holistic assessments - Chemical - DO, pH, nutrients, metals, pesticides - Physical - Flow, temp, turbidity, habitat, pool/riffle - Biological - IBIs, macro inverts, bacteria, riparian cover - Land uses - Urban, suburban, ag, forest, pervious and impervious cover, hotspots - Potential pollutant sources - NPDES, mines, stormwater outfalls, site-specific

